

**CITY OF AUBURN
EXAMINING BOARD OF PLUMBERS
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2011**

Members Present: Mr. Steve Bianco, Mr. Greg Gallinger, Mr. Frank Siracusa and Mr. Carl Castiglione

Member Absent: Mr. Bill Orman

Staff Present: Brian Hicks and Kim Bauso

Mr. Siracusa: Meeting called to order. First order of business, approve the minutes of the last meeting of November 15, 2011. Any errors or omissions? None. Minutes are approved. We never had correspondence but we had a letter from the Corporation Counsel.

Mr. Castiglione: Did everyone get it?

Mr. Bianco: I got it.

Mr. Siracusa: Steve anything going on?

Mr. Bianco: Just want to touch on some of the issues we are having with the Sewer and Water Supervisor, but since Tom Gabak is not here tonight we should push it at the next meeting.

Mr. Siracusa: Are you saying he is interfering with your work or what?

Mr. Bianco: Yea he basically is interfering with Bianco Plumbing and I know he has had some problems with one of the other plumbers. Don't know if he is gun ho with the job or what he is trying to prove.

Mr. Siracusa: Is he stepping on Carl's toes?

Mr. Bianco: I think he is, he is not the plumbing inspector by any means and he shouldn't be in the basement nosey around any body's property that is the plumbing inspector's position. That is the situation with the Stillman's property I thought.

Mr. Gallinger: I know Shane gave Tom a hard time about the situation about the apartment house they had the City involved true he had a plugged sewer and Shane he is a licensed plumber and he doesn't have a plugged sewer kind of crazy to say something like that but it happens so I am not sure if that rubbed Tom the wrong way and then the other issue that came up with the sump pump.

Mr. Bianco: Another issue is I have had some customers call and say they had a letter sent by Tom Gabak regarding replacing their water mains and come to find out they didn't have to but he gave them a notice to replace the water main that there was a leak in their service. Come to find out they never did get in to shut the inside valve off to see if the water was actually leaking so I have to dig a little further there to see where he is coming from. Is there an outside company that is measuring this?

Mr. Castiglione: They hired an outside company a couple years ago to find the leaks but I don't know if that company is still working for the City.

Mr. Bianco: Had a customer call because they got a notice from Gabak regarding replacing the water service. Come to find out the City never got in the basement to shut the house main so not shutting that off I don't know they are determining that it is leaking. There is no obvious water, so if the toilet is running inside the house you are going to hear water running I just think this is strange he doesn't have the experience to be out there measuring.

Mr. Siracusa: He is saying there is a leak between the meter and the curb?

Mr. Bianco: Yes and he gave like a 48 hour notice to hire a plumber and replace the line whatever the notice might be I don't know.

Mr. Siracusa: Does he have that right Carl as far as the leaks concerned yes

Mr. Castiglione: To determine if there is a leak or not there is only way and that is to go in and shut off that valve inside the house then with your listening device or whatever you use see if you hear water. Now the

house is shut off if there is a leaky toilet or anything you are not going to hear it. But without shutting that valve off there is a leaky toilet in a single family house you are going to hear water running.

Mr. Bianco: There is a 4 unit apartment house on Wall Street it is a locked basement and I am sure the City would notify the owner if they are going to go into somebody's basement

Mr. Castiglione: We just want to go in and turn off your main and let them know it is going to be about 10 or 15 minutes.

Mr. Bianco: That is how Mike Reilley use to do it, he would put on these earphones or whatever and tie into the service inside

Mr. Castiglione: No other way to find out. Have to shut it off.

Mr. Siracusa: Did he turn the valve off at the street or anything?

Mr. Bianco: We don't know.

Mr. Castiglione: Have to shut off the valve in the house.

Mr. Bianco: We should ask him how he is coming up with why there is a service leak, they don't disappear, if you have a leak there is a leak. But to get a notice and tell the people they have to replace it,

Mr. Siracusa: The letter they got did it specify why they have to replace it because it is leaking but they didn't specify that they found a leak there.

Mr. Bianco: It is a demand letter from what I hear I can probably get a copy of the letter. I just thought it was strange that they got the same letter in a couple of weeks of each other just thought it was something that I would bring up to the board.

Mr. Siracusa: Did they replace the mains?

Mr. Bianco: No they didn't ended up not having to do it because they both said the same thing they didn't understand where he was coming from, an outside source coming up with a leak source or what is going on.

Mr. Siracusa: Will you check into it Carl?

Mr. Castiglione: Yes I will. I will see if that company is still working for the City. They were going around with their listening devices.

Mr. Bianco: That was 5 years ago.

Mr. Hicks: We still have them going.

Mr. Bianco: Still have them going? So maybe they are reporting back to Gabak and he sends out the notices, I don't know.

Mr. Castiglione: But the thing is if you don't shut off that meter value you are not going to get a true reading. How can you listen if someone is taking a shower or flushing a toilet, you hear water running, of course you are going to hear water running got to shut off that meter value then see if you hear water running. It is black and white no other way to do it.

Mr. Siracusa: Let's not blow this out check into it and report back.

Mr. Bianco: Yea not something we know for sure.

Mr. Castiglione: You have the address of those two residents?

Mr. Bianco: Yes I do.

Mr. Castiglione: Give them to me and I will check with them. I will find out how they came up with that conclusion that the water service is leaking.

Mr. Siracusa: Anything else Steve?

Mr. Bianco: Nothing else just wanted to clear the air with the problems we are having with sewer and water. I would like to say we never had any problems ever with the City of Auburn Sewer and Water Departments, we worked with Mike Reilley and Albert Cockrell and Jerry DelFavero for 25 years I guess and I can't think of one scenario where there was any conflict over anything. We have helped the City out with certain

things and they have helped us out I don't want to see that go but it looks like it is going in that direction.

Mr. Siracusa: Anything Greg?

Mr. Gallinger: No all set.

Mr. Siracusa: Carl what do you have?

Mr. Castiglione: Nothing. I am going to look into those items, I need the exact address so when I call them I want to give them the exact address. Want to know how the company found them, I don't want these people to go to the expense if there isn't a water leak.

Mr. Bianco: That is what I am getting at you are talking between \$3,000 to \$4,000 job sometimes especially with a 4 unit apartment building, no reason whatsoever came to mind.

Mr. Castiglione: No water coming up out of the ground?

Mr. Bianco: No water at either residence, leaking no where. It could have been ground water, who knows.

Mr. Siracusa: Well we must have had a report from this company then.

Mr. Bianco: I just find it hard to believe that somebody sent them a notice without being 100% on something like that.

Mr. Siracusa: All set Carl?

Mr. Castiglione: Yes.

Mr. Siracusa: Brian do you have anything?

Mr. Hicks: No comments for the plumbing board.

Mr. Siracusa: Are you sure, you must have something to tell us.

Mr. Hicks: I have nothing.

Mr. Castiglione: Anything from Jenny?

Mr. Hicks: Nothing more than she is still trying to deal with the software issue and that it is one of the items we are going to try and correct but we are not sure where that budget line is going to be and it is still up in the air.

Mr. Siracusa: Any further business?

Mr. Castiglione: I am going to be gone from the 18th of December to the 6th of January.

Mr. Bianco: Who is going to take over from that point?

Mr. Castiglione: Brian will be taking over.

Mrs. Westlake: Do you want to set the date for the next meeting?

Mr. Bianco: At the next meeting we are suppose to maybe invite Mike Talbot.

Mr. Castiglione: I think we should.

Mr. Bianco: I did notify John Rossi over this issue we were having with the supervisor and also the Mayor so maybe at the next meeting we will have this taken care or have a meeting on it.

Mr. Siracusa: Let's wait to see what Carl finds out what is going on.

Mr. Castiglione: Give me a call tomorrow Steve and give me the exact addresses. House on Wall Street and where was the other one?

Mr. Bianco: On Van Anden.

Mr. Castiglione: What determined there was a water service leak that is all I want to know. I am going to ask them.

Mr. Bianco: There was a discrepancy with a \$3,700 bill and that was a toilet that was running forever and then on top of that then he got a letter from Water Department and it said his water service was leaking and he had to replace it. They had to hire a master plumber.

Mr. Castiglione: The service does not register.

Mr. Bianco: I understand that I don't know where all this is coming from but we should find out where it is coming from.

Mr. Siracusa: Carl, would you introduce this young lady to the board?

Mr. Castiglione: Yes, Kim will be taking over for Jane because Jane is leaving for the warmer weather so Kim doing her job until Jane comes back. Kim works in our office, everyone knows Kim.

Mr. Siracusa: She will be taking over for Carl while he is gone. (Everyone laughs).

Mr. Castiglione: She wears many hats. If you have any sanitary sewers or water services Brian will take care of them. Like I told Brian you guys do the work it is done right and never had you know, if you want to take pictures to the wall because it is going to be closed off, you have done that before and I put them right in with the permits.

Mr. Bianco: Something came up on one of the commercial jobs and it was about the commercial sprinklers, there is no permit required for the sprinklers Brian?

Mr. Hicks: No.

Mr. Siracusa: Insurance takes care of that.

Mr. Bianco: If sprinklers are required I wondered why there isn't a permit.

Mr. Hicks: The City has never had that line item for permits and that will change. As far as the State is concerned there should be a line item for that and they have them listed as one of our certified license

installers through the State because the only place the licensing is through the State for sprinklers.

Mr. Bianco: I think there is a State license for sprinklers for fire protection alarms and security.

Mr. Hicks: It is not the installer it is the designer that has to step up to the plate and show proof that this is the right system for this structure. We will accept plans from now on and have a copy of those plans but the pipe fitters are the one who will go from the plans and place the heads where they need to be placed and the right heads that are suppose to be in there.

Mr. Bianco: I am just surprised that we don't charge some kind of permit they are more than willing to pay for the permit that is the way I took it. They were surprised when they came to Auburn and they didn't have to pay for that type of permit.

Mr. Hicks: It is State law, that is why I told him to get a hold of you to determine whether or not that back flow preventor was required and I wanted to make sure he talked with you because he was tying into the water service.

Mr. Bianco: He is the fire suppression guy, he is not the sprinkler guy, he is alarms and fire security.

Mr. Hicks: He is the alarms system, the sprinkler system with fire suppression ties in with the alarm they work hand in hand.

Mr. Bianco: He was a little confused at that.

Mr. Hicks: Because there are flow meters in the sprinkler system so as soon as that flow meter senses a flow it sets it into an alarm mode and you have to have that alarm and that may trigger well after the smoke has picked up and your smoke head or your heat head you get enough heat to set the fire alarm activates the sprinkler head so you want your flow head giving your a reading long before the sprinkler system come on they all have to work together all tied in together. So that is what he does, but he may be the company that sub-contracts all the pipe to the person that will install it.

Mr. Bianco: I understand what you are saying but this company all they do is handle that end of it and he had no idea who the fitter would be, the sprinkler company was going to be. I am sure eventually they will have to work hand in hand. This is an existing system.

Mr. Hicks: They are just doing an upgrade. Will have to be tested and all the testing will have to be certified.

Mr. Bianco: Will it have to be re-certified?

Mr. Hicks: Once a year we have to make sure it is tested and documentation is kept on that system.

Mr. Bianco: And the insurance companies do a pretty good job of that now a days making sure the sprinklers are tested.

Mr. Siracusa: I want to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 10, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Castiglione: We will send a letter to Mike Talbot regarding issues with sewer and water.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.